(b) and (c) Summary of important recommendations is at Statement. (Refer to Statement appended to U.Q. No. 713)

(d) Indian amendments as incorporated in the UNESCO World Declaration on Higher Education are at Statement.

Statement

Important amendments and modifications suggested by India and incorporated in the "World Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century; Vision and Action" include the following:

(a) Emphasis on building the future, for which the younger generations will need to be equipped with new skills, knowledge and ideals;

(b) Our concern arising from the profound crisis of values that obliges our society to transcend mere economic considerations and incorporate deeper dimensions of morality and spirituality;

(c) The need to ensure that the values and ideals of culture of peace prevail;

(d) Emphasis on closer relationship between the world of knowledge and the world of work;

(e) The need to make higher education student oriented;

(f) Emphasis on new methods of education which will also imply new types of teaching-learning materials;

(g) New Methods of testing that would promote not only power of memory but also powers of comprehension, skills of practical work and creativity;

(h) Need to evolve "knowledge society" in order to ensure high quality and equitable regulations for access to prevail;

(i) Need to involve both public and private resources for funding of higher education, even when the role of State remains essentials;

(j) The crucial role of UNESCO in promoting international cooperation in the field of higher education and in implementing the World declaration; and

(k) Consideration that should be given to according priority to the implementation of the World declaration in the development of UNESCO's next draft Programme and Budget.

Expenditure on Education

734. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure on education, by Government of India, as a per cent of GDP, has decreased in the last two years;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that this figure is raised to 6%, as is the declared target of this Government; and

(c) whether Government would consider levying an educational cess to raise more funds for primary education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The National Agenda of Governance has committed that 6% of the GDP should be spent on education.

वर्तमान परीक्षा प्रणाली

735. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्तमान शिक्षा पद्धति के प्रति आम विद्यार्थियों का विश्वास हिलता जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा परिषद द्वारा ली गयी 10वीं एवं 12वीं कक्षाओं की परीक्षाओं के अंकों के पुन: निरीक्षण के लिए कितने आवेदन किये गये थे;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि विद्यार्थियों एवं उनके अभिभावकों की ओर से काफी समय से मांग की जाती रही है कि मूल्यांकन के पश्चात उत्तर-पुस्तिकाएं विद्यार्थियों को दिखाये जाने की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार पारदर्शिता के सिद्धांत के आधार पर इस दिशा में सुधारात्मक कदम उठायेगी?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (डॉ॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी): (क) इस बयान का समर्थन अथवा खंडन करने के लिए सरकार के पास डाटाबेस के आधार पर कोई सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ख) केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड परीक्षा परिणामों की घोषणा होने के पश्चात् उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं के पुनर्मुल्यांकन की अनुमति नहीं प्रदान करता है। किन्तु केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड के परीक्षा उपनियमों में अन्तर्निहित प्रावधानों के अनुसार, वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 में 10वीं तथा 12वीं कक्षा की हुई परीक्षाओं के परीक्षा परिणामों की घोषणा होने के बाद इस बोर्ड को अंकों की पुष्टि करने के लिए निम्नलिखित आवेदन प्राप्त हुए थे।

वर्ष	कक्षा 10	कक्षा 12
1995-96	16194	25465
1996-97	17074	25564
1997-98	19355	28859

(ग) कुछ क्षेत्रों में समय-समय पर मूल्यांकन के पश्चात छात्रों की उत्तर-पुस्तिकाएं दिखाए जाने की मांग बढ़ी है।

(घ) केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड ने मूल्यांकन प्रणाली में सुधार करने तथा उसमें परिवर्तन करने संबंधी उपायों पर सुझाव देने के लिए एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया था। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है तथा रिपोर्ट में की गई सिफारिशें बोर्ड के सक्रिय विचाराधीन है।

Educating the Children in Indian Culture by the Parents

726. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether parents in the country are not doing what is necessary to educate their children in Indian culture; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to correct the shortcomings of Indian parents?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Parents are important stakeholders in the educational system. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as revised in 1992) enshrines the importance of culture, values and aesthetic appreciation in the educational process. Parents have a crucial role to play in this connection. A Committee to spell-out Fundamental Duties which will, inter-alia, cover this area has been set up in the Department of Education.

Declaraing Darjeeling Himalayan Rail as 'Heritage Train'

737. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would declare the 'Darjeeling Himalayan Rail' connecting New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling as 'Heritage Train';

(b) whether Government would also agree to lease the railway lands on this stretch, where local people aer residing for years; and

(c) whether Government would also agree to allow the local people to use vacant stalls and sheds on this section, on lease or rental basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An application has been made to UNESCO for declaring Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as a world heritage site.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Local people are eligible to apply as and when applications are invited by the railway administration.

Transportation of Goods

738. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government during the last one year to make Railways' transportation of goods competitive to the road transportation, which includes efforts to improve timely delivery of goods, maintain charges competitiveness, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION). (SHRI RAM NAIK): Railways have taken the following steps to make rail transportation competitive, attract